

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIA FOR IEU/COHEN

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SUBJECT SACLANT ARTICLE IN NATO REVIEW - AFP INTERVIEW WITH
SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, DECEMBER 22

REF USNATO 6955

1. DURING INTERVIEW WITH LUNS, AFP CORRESPONDENT PIERRE
LEMOINE RAISED ISSUE OF SACLANT ARTICLE ASKING WHAT LUNS
REACTION WAS TO SUGGESTION BY KIDD THAT NAVAL ACTIVITY BE
EXPANDED OUTSIDE OF TREATY ZONE.

2. IN REPLY, LUNS EMPHASIZED THAT ARTICLE WAS NOT OFFICIAL
AND REPRESENTED VIEWS OF AUTHOR ONLY. IN ADDITION, LUNS
NOTED THAT KIDD HAD RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY OF
EXPANDING NATO ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THIS ZONE. HE WENT ON TO
NOTE THAT INDIVIDUAL NATO COUNTRIES ARE OF COURSE FREE TO
QUOTE SHOW THE FLAG END QUOTE OR ENGAGE IN OTHER ACTIVITIES
EITHER UNILATERALLY OR UNDER SEPARATE AGREEMENTS POINTING
TO US-UK COOPERATION ON DIEGO GARCIA. LUNS DID NOTE
THAT NATO NAVAL CHIEFS DO HAVE AUTHORITY TO PREPARE
QUOTE CONTINGENCY STUDIES END QUOTE FOR NATO NAVAL
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA DURING TIME OF WAR.

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3. IN ANSWER TO FOLLOW UP, LUNS SAID THAT IT WAS
CONCEIVABLE THAT NATO COULD DECIDE TO QUOTE SHOW THE
FLAG END QUOTE OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA BUT THAT THAT WOULD
NEED A COUNCIL DECISION. WHILE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE,
HE ADDED, HE COULD NOT SEE THE COUNCIL TAKING SUCH AN
ACTION UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. COMPLETE Q AND A IN FRENCH FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT:

QUESTION 1: MONSIEUR LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL, QUELLE ES
VOTRE REACTION AU POINT DE VUE EXPRIME PAR L'AMIRAL KIDD
CONCERNANT UNE EXTENSION D'ACTIVITES NAVALES EN DEHORS DE LA ZONE
DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD?

RESPONSE: JE TIENS A SOULIGNER QUE L'ARTICLE EN QUESTION N'A
PAS ETE ECRIT SOUS L'AUTORITE DE L'OTAN, MAIS REFLETE SEULEMENT
LES IDEES DE L'AMIRAL AMERICAIN QUE EN EST L'AUTEUR. CELUI-CI
RECONNAIT D'AILLEURS QUE CE QU'IL ENVISAGE SERAIT POLITIQUEMENT
TRES DIFFICILE - C'EST-A-DIRE DE PERMETTRE A L'OTAN DE SE MANIFESTER
EN DEHORS DE LA ZONE DU TRAITE. L'AMIRAL EXCLUT L'ESTABLISSEMENT
DE BASES DE L'OTAN EN DEHORS DE CETTE ZONE MAIS IL EST CLAIR
QUE CERTAINS PAYS MEMBRES, INDIVIDUELLEMENT, PEUVENT EN AVOIR
OU EN ONT DEJA. CES PAYS-LA PEUVENT "MONTRER LE DRAPEAU". JE
PENSE PAR EXEMPLE A L'ANGLETERRE, A LA HOLLANDE, AUX ETATS-UNIS,
ETC...

IL Y A AUSSI L'ACCORD ENTRE LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET LES ETATS-
UNIS AU SUJET DE L'ILE DE DIEGO GARCIA.

CECI DIT, IL N'EST PAS QUESTION D'ETENDRE LES FRONTIERES NE LE
TERRITOIRE DE L'OTAN AU-DELA DES LIMITES EXISTANTES. MAIS JE
DOIS AJOUTER QUE L'UNION SOVIETIQUE ENVOIE DES UNITES NAVALES
PARTOUT DANS LE MONDE ET PERSONNE NE SOULEVE D'OBJECTION
A CET EGARD.

JE RAPPELLE AUSSI QUE LE COMITE DES PLANS DE DEFENSE

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A DONNE A NOS CHEFS MARITIMES L'AUTORISATION DE
PREPARER DES ETUDES - "CONTIGENCY STUDIES" - SUR
LA QUESTION DE SAVOIR COMMENT ON POURRAIT MENER
DES OPERATIONS EN MER, EN TEMPS DE GUERRE, EN
DEHORS DE LA ZONE DU TRAITE, TOUT EN Y AJOUTANT
QU'IL ATAIT TOTALEMENT EXCLU D'AVOIR DES CONTACTS
DE QUELQUE GENRE QUE CE SOIT AVEC DES PAUS DE
L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE A CET EGARD.

ENFIN, JE SUIS CONVAINCU QUE NOS CHEFS MARITIMES
SONT TRES CONSCIENTS DES DIFFICULTES POLITIQUES
QUI EXISTENT.

QUESTION 2: NE POURRAIT-ON PAS SONGER, NEANMOINS, A UN
PREMIER PAS PLUS MODESTE?

RESPONSE: IL VA DE SOI QUE TOUTE DECISION DE "MONTRER LE
DRAPEAU" EN DEHORS DES LIMITES EXISTANTES
NECESSITERAIT UNE DECISION POLITIQUE DU CONSEIL.

THEORIQUEMENT, IL SERAIT POSSIBLE D'ENVISAGER UNE
TELLE ACTION EN TEMPS DE PAIX, MAIS JE NE VOIS PAS

COMMENT ON POURRAIT PRENDRE UN TELLE DECISION DANS
LES CIRCONSTANCES ACTUELLES. END TEXT
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